

Friends Congregational Church, United Church of Christ – Church Council Minutes

October 25, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

Vision: Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God’s radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Mission: United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

Core Values: Spirituality, Inclusivity & Affirmation, Community, Justice, and Stewardship

Attendees:

Abs	Dan De Leon <i>Senior Pastor</i>	X	Cathy Hansen <i>Moderator</i>	Abs.	Jodie Robinson <i>DM of Programs</i>
X	Tami Dudo <i>Diversity & Inclusion Rep</i>	Abs.	Bill Harper <i>DM of Trustees</i>	X	Trent Williams <i>Associate Pastor</i>
X	Brian Gilson <i>Congregational Rep</i>	X	Toni Klemm <i>Council Secretary</i>	X	Jackie Womack, minutes <i>Vice Moderator</i>
X	Jacque Halverson <i>Congregational Rep</i>	X	Theresa Walker <i>Treasurer</i>		Guests

Agenda

1. Opening story and/or prayer – Tami
2. Review of minutes from previous meeting – Toni Klemm/Jackie Womack
3. Finance Committee Report – Jackie Womack
 - a. Working on a plan for one-time donation not used (included in “Restricted Funds”)
 - b. Switch considered from QuickBooks, our current bookkeeping software (see finance committee report), to Shelby System that is being adopted by the South Central Conference.
4. Old Business – Updates and reviews
 - a. Outdoor services – first Sunday of every month, weather permitting – Trent
 - i. Potentially early service outside, late service inside to economize on logistics
 - b. Hybrid Congregational meeting review, 10/10/21
 - i. Went well overall (Brian G.)
 - ii. For the December meeting we will need to incorporate a method to vote. We have successfully used the online poll on a virtual Congregational Meeting.
 - iii. The next Congregational meeting will likely be the first or second Sunday of December (not to overlap with Children’s Christmas Pageant, but before school/TAMU ends): December 5th or 12th
 - c. Nursery is open and clean (thanks Bill H.!), let people know it’s available for parents to use, install TV screen (already available) for parents to use it and watch the service
 - d. Servant Leader and Family Retreat review, 10/23/21 – All
 - i. All loved it, wonderful place and hosts, will be tough to top!
 - e. Ad-Hoc Tech Team Report – Jackie Womack
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - f. Email issues – Trent
 - i. Issue with current church email system (Hostmonster?), church emails bounce back from Suddenlink accounts
 - ii. Lay leaders last Sunday didn’t receive their guides
 - iii. Migration to other hosting system may be necessary
 1. Google for nonprofits may be an inexpensive option – Trent is inquiring about the possibility with Google
 2. Wix (our website provider) offers \$5/month per email address, an option that uses Google platform as well.
 3. Historical emails would need to be moved over
5. New Business [10]

- a. Follow up on the email vote for the Treasurer Appointment for the remaining term (until July 2022)
 - i. Teresa Walker confirmed as new Treasurer
 - b. Community wide Trunk-or-Treating event 10/30/21 at 5:00 pm, profit-share proceeds – Tiny Hope
 - c. Church Office Administrator Update - Cathy
 - i. Admin assistant (20h/week) and A/V tech positions posted on Facebook, link to more info on Friends website
 - ii. Deadline Wednesday, Oct 27
 - iii. After Wednesday we'll contact a staffing agency (Spherion) for help
 - iv. Trent will be Kate's supervisor, Kate will be supervisor of the new admin assistant
 - 1. Brian: Why the hierarchy, seems like lots of layers?
 - 2. Trent: New role is still evolving, nothing set in stone yet
 - d. Senior Pastor Evaluation team appointments – Cathy
 - i. Jacque H., Brian G., and Tami D. become part of Senior Pastors evaluation team
 - ii. The evaluation process will begin in the spring of 2022.
 - e. Church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner event planned
 - i. Brian Blake (Fellowship chair) planning, Sunday Nov 21, ca. 4pm (maybe earlier), at Central Park, Stephen Beachy Pavilion (has a modified kitchen with sink available)
 - f. Request from Dan to endorse a [multi-faith statement of Support for Transgender Children by "Believe Out Loud", a program by Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, TX](#) (see also attached), in response to the ban of transgender children to compete in sports as the gender they feel represented by
 - i. Jackie W. moved to endorse, Jacque H. seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Reports
- a. Senior Pastor – Pastor Dan
 - i. Goals: Free up space to focus on book-writing project and other activities and less involvement with youth ministry coordination and leadership (consider hiring a youth minister),
 - b. Associate Pastor - Pastor Trent
 - i. Get more involved in church finance
 - ii. Thanks for 5-year celebration
 - iii. New accounting system, meeting with company rep Tuesday, 10/26/21
 - iv. Additional considerations: outsourcing bookkeeping to outside firm, may provide more services, options than computer software
 - v. Actively seeking for A/V position to release some work of volunteers
 - vi. Nov. 7: new Spiritual Life and Inquiry Class
 - vii. Small groups are about to start again
 - viii. Book club 10/28
 - c. Diversity and Inclusion – Tami – no report
 - d. Congregational Representatives – Brian and Jacque – no report
 - e. Deputy Moderator for Trustees – Bill (written report)
 - f. Deputy Moderator for Programs – Jodie (written report)
7. Other, additional items
- a. Spiritual Life Advent Devotional – seeking contributors
 - b. Thursday Book Club
 - c. Food Drive at Peace Lutheran
 - d. Attendance: less than pre-COVID, but hard to compare, because livestreams on Facebook and YouTube (not counted before COVID) count viewing accounts, not actual persons attending
8. Looking Ahead - Cathy
- a. 10.30.21 – Trunk-or-Treating Event at 5:00 pm

- b. 10.31.21 – Brook Dooley’s Recognition as pastoral intern
- c. 11.07.21 – Daylight Saving Time ends and Stewardship Sunday
- d. 11.21.21 – Thanksgiving Dinner at Stephen Beachy Central Park Pavilion
- e. 11.22.21 – Next Church Council Meeting

Meeting adjourned 7:15pm.



The banner features three logos on a background of horizontal stripes in light blue, pink, and white. On the left is the Cathedral of Hope logo, which includes a red heart icon and the text 'CATHEDRAL OF HOPE' and 'A CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'. In the center is a hand holding a pink sign with the text 'TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS' in yellow and black. On the right is the Believe Out Loud logo, which includes a colorful cross icon and the text 'Believe ((+))' and 'OUT LOUD'.

Multi-faith Statement of Solidarity with Transgender Children

Believe Out Loud is a program of Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, a vibrant, inclusive & progressive member congregation, known historically and predominantly as the largest LGBTQ church in the world.

Believe Out Loud invites you to endorse the following statement.

STATEMENT:

Sports teams should be a shining example to children of how working together with people of different backgrounds can foster close bonds and help young people find success through teamwork. Giving transgender youth a place on such teams could improve mental health by leaps and bounds and provide a network of friends who don't see their differences as grounds for exclusion but opportunities for celebration.

Believe Out Loud calls on people of faith to stand with transgender siblings who are being targeted by legislators around the country. In Texas, during a historic pandemic and ongoing suffering Governor Greg Abbot called a special session to pass legislation to prevent transgender children in school from playing sports in their gender identity.

Join us in letting Governor Greg Abbott know that people of faith stand with our Transgender siblings and that the God we know would welcome all children to come and play.